(b) In a meeting convened by the Director General of Civil Aviation, the International Air Carriers have agreed to charge pre-specified fares as filed with Director General of Civil Aviation. They have also agreed to abide by the provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 relating to tariff.

Operation of Boeing Aircraft in Saurashtra Region

1405. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the actual and total length of runways, taxi tracks and apron at Bhuj, Kandla, Porbandar, Keshod Airports;

(b) whether Boeing aircrafts are operated to and from all the above airports except Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar;

(c) whether Government propose to expand and extend the runway at the Bhavnagar airport with all navigational facilities of International standards;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The actual and total length of runways, taxi tracks and apron at Bhuj, Kandla, Porbandar, Keshod airports are as under:—

	Runway	Taxitrack	Apron
BHUJ:	05/23 8250'x150'	Width 75'	150'x110'
KANDLA:	05/23 5000'x150'	Width 50'	300 'x200'
		Length 650'	
PORBA:	09/27 4500 'x150'	Width 50'	150 'x100' (old)
NDAR:	05/23 3290 'x120'	Length 900'	300 'x200' (new)
KESHOD:	05/23 4500 'x150'	Width 50'	300 'x250'
		Length 630'	

(b) Indian Airlines is presently operating Airbus A-320 aircraft to Bhavnagar and Boeing-737 aircraft to Bhuj, Rajkot and Jamnagar.

(c) to (e) The National Airports Authority is ascertaining the feasibility of extension of the runway at Bhavnagar. The existing Very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR) is being replaced by Doppler VOR at a total cost of Rs. 1.2 crores. It is likely to be commissioned by December, 1994.

Complants regarding raw deal from Travel Agents

1406. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided recently to come to the rescue of tourists who get a raw deal from travel agents, tour operators, hoteliers and traders by setting up a cell;

(b) if so, what is the composition of the cell;

(c) how many complaints have come to the notice of Government; and

(d) the progress made in regard to the disposal of the complaints received during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATOIN AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Complaints received by the Department of Tourism are taken up for remedial action with the agents providing hotel tourism services as well as with the law enforcing agencies at the State and Central levels through its Headquarters as well as Regional Offices. Action is taken for providing satisfaction to the tourists by amicable settlements or through the law enforcing agencies. Complaints are received both by the Headquarters as well as the Regional Offices and are dealt with depending on the nature of the complaints. Every effort is made to see that the tourist is satisfied;

Flight between Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad

1407. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines will introduce a flight between Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad;

(b) what are the reasons for discontinuing the Hyderabad-Visakhapanam flight; and

(c) the steps proposed to receive this flight?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to operating crew constraint and poor passenger demand Hyderabad-Vizag thrice weekly service was withdrawn with effect from 3rd April, 1994. Indian Airlnes has no plans to reintroduce this flight at present.

Proposal to reduce operating cost of Indian Airlines

1408. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the air fare in Indian Airlines;

(b) whether Indian Airlines will try to economise its administrative cost;

(c) whether any outside agency has been called to give advice on how to reduce operating costs of Indian Airlines; and

(d) if not, whether such a step will taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATOIN AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines has taken the following steps to economise its administrative cost—

(i) Reduction in overtime allowance wherever possible.

(ii) Close monitoring of 'no-time performance'.

(iii) Stepping up utilisation of existing fleet.

(iv) Control of unproductive expenditure.

(v) Frequent pre-flight checks to avoid wastage on food upliftment/ catering items.

(vi) Reduction in other administrative expenses like, telephones, travelling, printing and stationery etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.